

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

SUBJECT Meeting of High Government emt KVP Officials

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1. Lieutenant General Heinz Hoffmann was one of the speakers at a meeting in Strausberg on 20 November 1954 which was attended by all generals of the KVP, Otto Grotewohl, Willi Stoph, Erich Honnecker of the FDJ and Gustav Roebelin of the SED Central Committee.
2. The main points of Hoffmann's speech were as follows:
 - (a) There had been an all-round improvement in training except in the building department which had shown no improvement whatever.
 - (b) Qualifications of the commanding officers had improved but there was still room for further improvement.
 - (c) Senior staff officers had also improved in their work.
 - (d) On the whole political and moral qualities had improved but there was still too much theory and not enough emphasis on practice.
 - (e) The improvement in fighting technique had not been sufficient.
 - (f) There must be more co-operation with the Departments Aeroklub and See (Departments of Air and Sea).
 - (g) Training firing with revolvers and rifles had reached only 40% of the requirements.
3. Hoffmann then mentioned that the following principles should be applied for the coming training year:
 - (a) In respect to political training, it had been decided at the 4th Party Conference and the 21st Plenary Session of the SED Central Committee that all subjects must be linked with current affairs such as German Unity, the Peace Treaty and German-Soviet Friendship.
 - (b) Combat training must be carried out in close co-operation with the Sea and Air Forces.
 - (c) All officers must have qualifications of the next senior rank.

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- (d) Training must be intensified by the issue of better training manuals, pamphlets and directives and other training materials must be improved.
 - (e) The study of tactics must be considered in respect with atomic warfare tactics.
 - (f) The cadre must be energetically created.
 - (g) More attention must be paid to economies.
4. When Otto Grotewohl, the Minister President, spoke he was extremely critical, stating that it was not a matter of reducing the number of deserters but eliminating deserters completely. There was too little attention being paid to the cause of these desertions and commanding officers took too little trouble to care for the enlisted men who are usually left to their own devices after duty hours. The FDJ (Youth organization) has done nothing about caring for the EM although 0% of them are members of the FDJ. In addition the Party Organizations do little to improve the lot of the EM. He stated that statistics show that every fifth man in the VP is punished every quarter year. He finished by saying "Do not only give orders, but work man to man."
5. Minister Stoph said very little new in his speech except to state that an officers' court martial must be formed as officers' punishments are still too extreme, that officers do too little training and that the hours of work laid down should be more strictly adhered to.

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